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SUBJECT: U.S.-SRI LANKA RELATIONS - DRAFT OF STATEMENT
BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

REF: STATE 276851

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF STATEMENT TO BE RECORDED BY ASSIST-
ANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FOR BROADCASTING BY SRI LANKA
BROADCASTING CORPORATION. RECORDING IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED
FOR NOVEMBER 26 AND AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL WE WOULD APPRECI-
ATE HAVING YOUR COMMENTS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS WASHINGTON
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE: I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SRI
LANKA. IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE ON THE EVE OF OUR
BICENTENNIAL YEAR THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES TAKE A LONG
VIEW OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS WHICH OUR TWO
COUNTRIES PRESENTLY ENJOY.

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3. AS WE APPROACH THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THE WORLD IS ENTERING A NEW ERA, ONE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD WHICH SAW THE END OF COLONIALISM IN ASIA AND AFRICA AND A GLOBAL COLD WAR. RATHER,

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD WILL BE THOSE OF COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION: HOW TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL PEACE IN A MULTI-POLAR WORLD AND HOW TO PROVIDE A MORE SATISFACTORY STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL NATIONS.

4. WHAT AMERICANS AND CEYLONESE HAVE LEARNED IN BUILDING OUR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP CAN BE OF VALUE IN MEETING THESE BROADER CHALLENGES. AT TIMES, IN THE 1950S AND 1960S, DISCORD AND DISAGREEMENT EXISTED BETWEEN US. FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BOTH COME TO ACCEPT THAT OUR COMMON INTERESTS, ASPIRATIONS, AND SHARED VALUES TRANSCEND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. TODAY OUR RELATIONS ARE FRIENDLY BECAUSE WE HAVE LEARNED TO APPRECIATE AND TO RESPECT EACH OTHER'S INTERESTS AND VIEWS.

5. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE AMERICA'S POLICIES TOWARD SRI LANKA? THEY ARE: FIRST, WE ACCEPT YOUR COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT, AND RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT POSITION YOUR COUNTRY HOLDS AS THE HOST FOR THE 1976 NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE. DR. KISSINGER SUMMED UP OUR VIEW IN A SPEECH LAST YEAR WHEN HE SAID: "THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTS NON-ALIGNMENT. IN FACT, AMERICA SEES A WORLD OF FREE, INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATES AS BEING DECIDELY IN ITS OWN NATIONAL INTEREST. SUPPORT OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE VARIETY THAT GOES WITH IT HAS BECOME A CENTRAL THEME OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY."

6. SECOND, WE SEEK NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OR SPECIAL ROLE IN SOUTH ASIA OR SRI LANKA. WE WANT THE NATIONS OF THE REGION TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND TO DEVELOP THEIR DISTINCT NATIONAL IDENTITIES FREE FROM EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. WE WELCOME SRI LANKA'S POLICY OF SEEKING BALANCED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WITH OTHER POWERS.

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7. THIRD, WE SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THROUGH OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN BACKING YOUR PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND TO PROVIDE A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL OF YOUR CITIZENS. 1975, IN FACT, MARKS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

8. FINALLY, AMERICANS FEEL A SPECIAL AFFINITY TOWARD SRI LANKA BECAUSE OF OUR COMMON ADHERENCE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT AND ALL THAT THESE IMPLY. WE MAY LIVE HALF-WAY AROUND THE GLOBE FROM ONE ANOTHER, BUT AS

YOUR PRIME MINISTER MRS. BANDARANAIKE HAS SAID: "OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MANY THINGS IN COMMON, INCLUDING A DEVOTION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND FREE ELECTIONS".

9. COMMON INTERESTS, MUTUAL RESPECT AND SHARED ENDEAVORS ARE THUS THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH OUR FRIENDSHIP RESTS. THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS PART TO SUSTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP.

10. THE WORLD TODAY IS MARKED INCREASINGLY BY THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS, A JOINT FATE FOR ALL MANKIND, BY PROBLEMS WHICH TRANSCEND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND WHICH CANNOT BE SOLVED BY PURELY NATIONAL EFFORTS. AS OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SRI LANKA CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT AND COMPROMISE. JUST AS AMERICA AND SRI LANKA HAVE LEARNED TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING A PEACEFUL STABLE WORLD COMMUNITY, OTHER NATIONS WITH DIFFERING BACKGROUNDS AND CULTURES MUST ALSO LEARN TO COOPERATE IN MASTERING THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THIS TASK.

11. THE UNITED STATES VALUES ITS RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA AND HAS EVERY EXPECTATION THAT THESE WILL REMAIN WARM AND FRIENDLY IN THE YEARS AHEAD TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OUR TWO PEOPLES. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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